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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria

SUBJECT

Comments on Bulgarian Naval and
Military Functions

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1. Large Soviet warships seldom anchor in the waters near the Black Sea port of Stalin. However small Soviet warships often dock at this port to deliver weapons and munitions for the Bulgarian armies.
2. Soviet ship crews are permitted to visit the city only after the vessel is unloaded. The crews always move about in groups of three to five and each group has its chief (otgovornik). These groups have the right to visit only the places which are approved by the authorities.
3. Military equipment and weapons are unloaded during the night or during the day under vigilant guards. The harbor area is off-limits to unauthorized persons during the daytime unloading.
4. An unloading brigade consisting of ardent Communists assists in the unloading of the warships. DOSO / Voluntary Organization For Defense Cooperation / members also help to unload the ships and to guard the harbor.
5. Bulgarian ships sailing to the USSR usually visit the port of Odessa, while Bulgarian warships also visit Sevastopol. Uranium ore, minerals, timber, foodstuffs, vegetables, canned goods, and frozen foods are shipped.
6. Bulgarian ship crews are chosen from among the reliable Communists who had trained in the USSR for a period of six months to two years. The seamen who are assigned to command posts specialize for a longer time.
7. Uranium ore is loaded from the former Holland Quay at the port of Stalin. The storage areas are well camouflaged, enclosed with a barbed wire fence, and guarded by the militia, State Security agents, and DOSO members.
8. Bulgarian ships making regular runs to Albania transport Bulgarian grain foods, machinery, automobile parts, parts and machinery for agriculture, trucks, machinery for the cement plant and for the sugar factory, and

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equipment for the tobacco station. The machinery is chiefly of Czechoslovak, East German, and USSR origin. Bulgarian ships transport asphalt, petroleum, and ores from Albania to Bulgaria.

9. The Black Sea shore at the left of Stalin in the direction of Monastira /sic/ has a high elevation and is unsuitable for anchoring. The shore towards the Kamohiya River is low and well fortified. New fortifications including shore artillery installations supplied by the USSR have been installed on the shore in the direction of the Kamohiya River.
10. The Black Sea shore is a naval zone. This area, which has fortifications, shore defenses, and is guarded by infantry and anti-air troops, is off-limits to unauthorized personnel. Only military and party personnel with a special authorization from the Chief Command of the Ministry of Defense in Sofia or with a special open paper can move about in this area.
11. The rearming of the Bulgarian army is not easily noticed by the ordinary citizen since it is carried out with great precaution and secrecy. The political commanders continually warn the military personnel of a death penalty for anyone who reveals anything about the strength of the army, training, supplies, weapons, food, discipline, internal service, guard duty, military defenses, Soviet specialists and their visits to the barracks, names of officers, military personnel, authorities in the army, transfer of officers, punishment of officers, non-commissioned officers, and military personnel, etc.
12. The Bulgarian army receives the most modern automatic weapons from the USSR. It is reported that turbojet aircraft have been delivered to Bulgaria. Bulgarian pilots who have trained for two years or more in the USSR fly these planes and are under the supervision of a Soviet pilot. Bulgarian army officers consisting of Party members, former political prisoners, and partisans are secretly sent for specialization to the USSR.
13. The recruitment of reserve officers is conducted regularly and frequently. Reserve officers train for several months, regular units train for three months, and technical, artillery, air corps, and antiaircraft defense personnel train for a longer period. The above personnel are trained in the use of modern Soviet weapons.
14. Bulgarian armies are secretly concentrated in the frontier zone areas and receive training in firearms, preparatory maneuvers, area studies, and shooting practice. In this manner, more soldiers can be trained. Some of the soldiers remain in the frontier zone area for a certain time to reinforce the frontier troops. Their training takes place near the frontiers of Turkey, Greece, and Yugoslavia. This is the case with the Vratsa 35th Infantry Regiment, which is now stationed at Mikhaylovgrad, and with one battalion from the Sofia 6th Infantry Regiment, which is now stationed in gara Zemen near Treklyano, this battalion reinforces the troops in Kyustendil and Nosilgrad. The border is continually fortified with labor and military units. The town people are used for defense purposes, for guarding against ambushes, and for reconnaissance.

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